



Arizona Department of Transportation

Public Transportation Division

MEMORANDUM

To: MPO and COG Directors

Date: September 25, 2007

From: Jim Dickey, Director, PTD

Subject: State Public Transportation Update

Some of you may already know that I'm going to retire early next year, so I wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update on ADOT-PTD activities and give each of you some idea of ADOT Public Transportation Division efforts moving forward. So, here goes:

- FTA Program operations are in the best shape ever. Relationships with FTA, program grantees, and (I hope) with affected COG and MPO staff who help administer those programs are all in good order and sustainable.
- PTD has developed and implemented solid procedures and processes supporting all of our FTA programs (5303, 04, 10, 11, 16, 17) and have an approved state management plan that standardizes program delivery for the long run. ADOT flexed FHWA-STP allocations continue annually. Contact Matt Carpenter, Gregg Kiely, or Sam Chavez for more information.
- State Safety Oversight program guidelines are now in place and METRO is developing and implementing program delivery fully one year ahead of final revenue training. We expect a readiness review from FTA next spring. Contact Scott Friedson for more information.
- LTAF II program guidelines and distribution timing is better than ever, and the program is back at the standard threshold and cap, thanks in part to a lot of advocacy on the part of many people and organizations. Expect this year's distribution as early as late October. Contact Mark Hoffman for more information.
- Planning support for not only the FTA's state program, but technical support to small urban areas, tribal communities, and other transit needs, is being addressed formally and with a new level of attention to detail. PTD has completed a call for projects using 5304 funds, and we're ready to move forward with three requests. Contact Matt Carpenter for more information.
- Executive Orders pertaining to Arizona Rides and the pending Arizona Public Transportation Options have clarified and defined process and future direction for the Division, Department, and State for transit. Much of PTD's current efforts are the result of outcomes of those efforts. Contact Jim Dickey for more information.
- Future transit investments are now quantified and qualified because of completed state and/or regional studies of Rural Transit Needs, High Speed passenger rail, a RR inventory, and a 10 year capital needs assessment. Contact Matt Carpenter, Scott Friedson, or Mark Hoffman, respectively, for more information.
- In partnership with ADOT legislative staff, PTD Legislative program objectives are being clearly articulated and continually advanced. We've made unprecedented progress in the last three years including legislation allowing transit buses to stop on state highways and application to the HELP program of the SIB. We also

modified session law to find some planning \$ for rail! PTD has additional requests in for consideration for next legislative session. Contact Jim Dickey for more information

- Similarly, in partnership with ADOT FMS, PTD continues to push for state support for general fund allocations for planning, connectors, and other transit needs. Again, slow---but potentially effective, and new budget requests are now being considered and prioritized by the Department. Contact Jim Dickey for more information.

- At the national level, in partnership with ADOT Legislative Services staff, PTD is advocating for additionally mobility grants (Arizona Rides), preparing to submit a Discretionary Request for 5309 funds on behalf of the small MPOs and the rest of the state, participating with APTA, AASHTO, CTAA, National RTAP, NTI, FTA, FHWA, FRA, S4PRC, and other organizations and groups to further Arizona's public transportation needs. Contact Matt Carpenter or Jim Dickey for more information.

- ADOT-PTD is poised to enter the freight and passenger rail market by developing partnerships based upon its recent study work and a growing interest in rail issues in partnership with state and regional governments, and the private sector.

So, the Public Transportation Division now has an "agenda" and can move forward in concert with other Department programs. A multi-modal approach to planning and design is becoming ingrained. To that end, PTD staff has done a great job and is positioned to continue the trend.

All of this has been done through strengthened relationships with each of you. I appreciate your willingness to make many of our issues yours, too. Thanks for that. And you've all been great friends, too. In December I will provide a final update from my perspective. In the meantime, we are available to meet your needs to the best of our collective abilities. Don't hesitate to call.

Remember, the ADOT PTD mission is to identify public transportation needs, and administer programs and resources to provide safe and reliable options for Arizona's communities.

Check us out on the Web at www.azdot.gov/PTD .

Thanks....jd